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Testimony on Bill 5255 Tenants possessions March 10,2010

I oppose this bill strongly! Shifting the moving and storage expense from the towns responsibility to the State Marshals will only serve to greatly increase the cost of an eviction for the property owners. The Marshals will pass through the charges for the service that would have to be performed by a private moving and storage company, directly to the property owners.

This adds insult to injury after an evicted tenant already has received **numerous notices that they must move out**, and the owner has spent a minimum of \$215 court/marshal costs, plus \$300-\$ 500 attorney costs,\$250-\$1,500 for removal of evicted tenants possessions to the street, lost multiple months of rent due (say \$650 X 2-3months)and mostly likely will have to spend \$\$ repairing the damages done, **and** this bill proposes that we pay \$\$\$ again to remove from the street and store the possessions. Where does this end!! These costs will only be passed on as much a possible, to the good tenants in the form of **higher rents**. How is this fair to anyone?

The ridiculous fact of this fiasco is that most of the evicted possessions end up in the dump anyway!! The city of Hartford stores the tenants property in shipping containers(on the grounds of the dump) for 30 days,if the evicted tenant can pay the city's costs for moving and storage they can come and get their belongings back. Most don't bother, if far too expensive. This seems like a a foolish waste of everyone's resources, when tenants could rent a storage unit themselves for as little as \$40-\$75 a month if they want anything from the apartment.

Secondly, if an apartment is infested with bed bugs(a growing problem), no private moving or storage company will be willing to remove and store the infested belongings. From my experience nothing should be moved from the apartment to another location without fumigation, which may take several weeks. Who will be responsible for these additional costs?

Lastly, vacancy rates have increased as the economy wains, people are increasingly moving out of state, doubling up in apartments or moving back in with parents to survive. Land lords have held rent increases to a minimum or even lowered rents to try and fill the empty apartments. While expenses for energy,insurance ,water ,TAXES etc. keep increasing . We are stuck in the middle struggling to provide decent housing at an affordable price!

SOLUTION After notifying the tenant numerous times (as done now w/ court paperwork) The belongings left behind after an eviction should be considered abandoned property. Let the property owner dispose of it as they wish. We could pass the belongings on to tenants relatives if unable to to locate the tenant. This will save the cities and towns money and **not** pass on the expense to the property owners and responsible tenants.